

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10

OIC-02 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 STRE-00 /134 W

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P R 231756Z JAN 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1065

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MTN GENEVA 0509

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD MTN GATT

SUBJ: MTN SEVEN PLUS SEVEN JAN 23

REF: MTN GENEVA 487 (NOTAL)

1. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT SEVEN PLUS SEVEN JAN 23 ON
BRAZILIAN GATT REFORM PROPOSAL; PROBING QUESTIONS FROM
MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRY REPS, ESPECIALLY CANADA, BUT INCLUDING
JAPAN, EC AND US, INDICATED CONSIDERABLE HESITATION
TO EMBARK ON THIS PROJECT WITHOUT HAVING BETTER GRASP
OF INTENDED OBJECTIVES IN RELATIONSHIP TO ON-GOING MTN
WORK AS WELL AS BRAZILIAN INITIATIVES IN UN.

BRAZILIAN REPS GAVE PRELIMINARY--AND IN SOME CASES PURELY
PERSONAL-RESPONSES T MOST QUESTIONS, BUT TOOK GENERAL
LINE THAT ANSWERS TO MOST SHOULD BE SOUGHT BY PROPOSED
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NEW GROUP ITSELF IN PRAGMATIC FASHION. SMALL NUMBER

OF LD REPS PRESENT SUPPORTED BRAZIL. SEVEN PLUS SEVEN
AGREED MEET AGAIN FEB 26 TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION IN LIGHT
REFLECTION IN CAPITALS, INCLUDING CLARIFICATION BRAZILIAN
DEL OFFERED TO PROVIDE IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS.
(MORE DETAILED MTN REPORT IN PREPARATION).

2. QUESTION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF MTN GROUP ON GOVERNMENT
PURCHASING: DG THOUGHT TIME RIPE IN VIEW COMPLEXITY OF
SUBJECT, ABSENCE OF PREPARATORY WORK IN MTN CONTEXT, AND
TNC ESTABLISHMENT OF '77 TARGET DATE TO COMPLETE MTN.
EC SAID PREMATURE TO SET UP GROUP NOW BECAUSE BACKSTOPPING
SERVICES FOR NTM WORK ALREADY OVERLOADED, EC NOT PRT NOT
READY TO NEGOTIATE SOON IN MTN ON THIS SUBJECT AND THEREFORE
SETTING UP GROUP NOW WOULD SIMPLY BE "A SHELL" AND NOT
CONTRIBUTE TO CREDIBILITY OF MTN. NORWAY FOR NORDICS ALSO
NEGATIVE AND PREFERRED AWAIT FURTHER PROGRESS IN OECD.
JAPAN SAID ITS POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT OF EC AND UNABLE
MAKE DECISION PRIOR TO OECD TRADE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF
MATTER. AUSTRALIA HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT ESTABLISHING NEW
MTN GROUP ON ANY ONE PARTICULAR TOPIC WHEN OTHER
MATTERS OF KEY INTEREST TO SOME PARTICIPANTS NOT BEING
WORKED ON, I.E., BALANCE OF NEGOTIATING INTERESTS NEEDED
IN OVERALL STRUCTURE AND WORK OF MTN. CANADA DID NOT SPEAK
CLEARLY FOR OR AGAINST, NOTED CANADA ALWAYS ASSUMED
SUBJECT WULD COME TO MTN AT SOME POINT, AND ADVANCED
PERSONEL SUGGESTION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF "PREPARATORY
GROUP" ON SUBJECT RATHER THAN A NEGOTIATING GROUP
(NO ONE PICKED UP THIS SUGGESTION). OF DELEGATIONS PRESENT,
ONLY INDIA SPECIFICALLY PRESSED FOR ESTABLISHMENT PROMPTLY.
US RECALLED US WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IF THERE
WERE A CONSENSUS. DESPITE THIS ROUND OF RATHER NEGATIVE
ATTITUDES TOWARD EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GROUP ON
GOVERNMENT PURCHASING, DG ASKED THAT DELEGATIONS RETURN
TO SUBJECT AT NEXT MEETING FEB 26 TO SEE WHETHER
DEVELOPMENTS IN OECD BY THAT TIME JUSTIFY ANY DIFFERENT
ATTITUDE.

3. PRIOR TO MEETING, EC REP (LUYTEN) CALLED AMBASSADOR TO
EXPLAIN THAT DESPITE UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT US-EC
CONSULTATIONS YESTERDAY THAT BOTH US AND EC WOULD BE
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READY TO ACCEPT SETTING UP A NEGOTIATING GROUP ON GOVERNMENT
PURCHASING PROVIDED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSINS WOULD BE
DELAYED UNTIL AUTUMN, HE SAID COORDINATION WITH MEMBER
STATE REPS TODAY REVEALED A SPLIT "RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE"
FOR AND AGAINST INDIAN PROPOSAL AND, CONSEQUENTLY, HE
WAS INSTRUCTED TO TAKE LINE RECORDED ABOVE. WALKER

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